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NOV.  
NO. 206

# BATMAN

## WALKS THE LAST MILE



THIS IS THE END!

# AND THIS...IS THE BEGINNING!



STORY: FRANK ROBBINS ART: DRY NOVICKA, JOE GELLA

A FAR-OUT SETTING FOR A PERFECT CRIME-PLOT, OH, BATMANIACS?

BUT...AS WE SAID--THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF...

# BATMAN WALKS THE LAST MILE!

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THE NEXT NIGHT,  
IN THE MANAGER'S  
OFFICE, OF THE  
GOTHAM GRAND  
HOTEL...

IT HAPPENED DURING LAST  
EVENING'S CHARITY BALL,  
BATMAN! THE CROOKS  
CLEANSED OUT THE ENTIRE  
PROCEEDS OF THE  
ORPHANS' FUND--  
WITHOUT LEAVING  
A CLUE!

A CLEAN SWEEP,  
COMMISSIONER GORDON  
EVIDENTLY PLANNED BY  
A MASTER CRIMINAL  
BUT THEY ALL SLIP  
UP... SOMEWHERE!

MAYBE NOT THIS TIME,  
BATMAN'S REAL SLICK  
PROFESSIONAL! JUST HE  
USED GLOVES... NO  
FINGERPRINTS...

...AND NO FOOT-  
PRINTS, ROBIN!  
COULD HE WORN  
STOCKINGS--OR--  
WAIT A MINUTE!

WHAT  
IS IT?

TINY, GLISTENING  
PARTICLES... GROUNDED  
INTO THE ASPHALT  
TILE FLOOR, LIKE  
BY THE WEIGHT OF  
A HEAVY MAN!

COLD  
THIS BE  
THE BREAK  
WE NEED  
BATMAN!  
WHAT ARE  
THOSE...

I CAN'T TELL,  
COMMISSIONER...  
TILL I ANALYZE...

ROBIN!  
DON'T MOVE!

A LONG BLACK  
HAIR APPEARS TO BE  
STICKY... AS IF  
HEAVILY GREASED!  
EXPLAINS WHY IT  
STUCK TO YOUR BOOT  
WHILE WALKING  
AROUND, ROBIN...

FIRST AXIOM OF  
BLEUTHING, ROBIN  
BOY... NEVER JUMP  
TO CONCLUSIONS!  
COME... I'LL CHECK  
THESE OUT IN OUR  
BATMOBILE  
PORTABLE  
CRIME-LAB!



MOMENTS LATER... OUTSIDE...

FORGET THE "Chantez La Ferme"  
ROBIN! THE ELECTRON-MICROSCOPE  
REVEALS... THIS HAIR WAS ORIGINALLY  
BLONDE -- DYED BLACK!

AND SINCE "GENTLEMEN  
PREFER BLONDES" . . .  
HARDLY WORTH THE  
SWITCH FOR A  
WOMAN!

GRAND HOTEL

SECOND,  
IT'S A 100TH-  
INCH THICKER THAN  
A SPECIMEN  
FEMALE HAIR, WHICH HAS A  
SPLIT END, INDICATING FRE-  
QUENT BRUSHING AND  
GROOMING!

FEMALE HAIR, WHICH HAS A  
SPLIT END, INDICATING FRE-  
QUENT BRUSHING AND  
GROOMING!

OUR SUSPECT IS A MAN  
WITH A REAL, MESSY  
MOP! USES GREASE  
TO KEEP IT DOWN...  
SOMETHING LIKE AN  
INDIAN USES  
BEAR-GREASE!

YOU  
MEAN...?

SPECTRUM -  
ANALYSIS INDICATES  
THE BLISTENING PARTICLES TO  
BE PIMACEOLUS COLORANT... OR  
SIMPLY--ROBIN! COMMONLY  
USED BY DANCERS... OR  
MUSICIANS!

CAN WE  
NARROW  
IT DOWN?

THOSE TINY  
WILDLIKE FRAGMENTS  
CLINGING TO THE STICKY  
ROBIN... ALMOST LIKE  
SOFT ANIMAL SKIN--  
LEATHER!

WHICH RULES OUT  
DANCERS! BALLETISTS  
WEAR SATIN BOX-  
TOES... OTHERS  
METAL TAPE...  
HARD LEATHER...

...THIS IS MORE  
LIKE SOFT  
MATERIAL...  
AS USED IN  
INDIAN  
MOCCASINS!

INDIANS... ON THE MARATHON IN  
GOTHAM CITY? YOU'VE GOT TO  
BE HIDING...



OR A MUSICIAN...WEARING INDIAN MOCCASINS! BOUND TO PICK UP SOME ON HIS SOLES WHERE HE'S WORKIN'! COMMISSIONER, THERE WAS A **BAND** AT THIS BALL...?

WHY--YES! A COMBO-TRIO CALLED "CUSTER'S EAST STAND"! THEY TOG UP AS INDIANS!

THAT'S OUR MAN...A HIPPIE MUSICIAN! PROBABLY A BASS PLAYER! WHERE DO THEY HANG OUT REGULARLY?

AT "THE DOOR-WAY", BUT... ACCORDING TO WITNESSES... NAME OF THEM LEFT THE STAND DURING THE TIME OF THE ROBBERY!

SHORTLY AT THE DISCOTHEQUE...

LOOK...BIG SQUAT! BATMAN...AND...UGH...ROBIN!

DOUBLE UGH! HE NO LIKE JIM, CHIEF SITTIN' IN. GOTTA TUNE OUT TH' SCENE!

COVER ME, LI'L MOOSE!

TAKE 'EM ON THE LEFT, ROBIN! I'LL GRAB THE BASS-BULLY...

AS BIG SQUAT MAKES HIS BREAK, LI'L MOOSE TURNS UP HIS ELECTRIC-GUITAR AMPLIFIER, FULL VOLUME AND STRIKES A MIGHTY CHORD.

SOREEEE  
TWANG

THE AWESOME AMPLIFIED  
CLAYMORE... ABOVE THE  
THRESHOLD OF PAIN... BRINGS  
THE DYNAMIC DUO TO A  
QUAKING HALT!...

QU-ONG!

OW-  
OUCH!

BOOM!

BWOING

GRABBING THIS ATTACHED AMPIFIER CABLE... ROBIN RETALIATES!

UGH-H-  
HOW...??

LIKE... PONN!  
YOU'RE ALL  
STRUNG-OUT-  
YETT-HAPPY!

TEARING OFF THE SHATTERED  
TOM-TOM, THE CAPED CRU-  
BADER DRUMS OUT BIG  
SOLIAT... TRYING TO BEAT A  
HASTY RETREAT...

TRY THIS  
TUNE ON YOUR  
BULL-FIDDLE,  
BASS-BUM!

CRASHING INTO  
HIS INSTRUMENT  
IN A THUNDEROUS  
JANGLE OF  
PLUCKED BASS,  
BIG SQUAT  
LIES HELPLESS  
IN A SHOWER OF  
STOLEN LOOT...

ZOK!

HAVE NO  
"RESERVATIONS"  
ABOUT YOUR SITTIN'  
OUT THIS HAR-DANCE...  
CHEER SITTIN' IN!

ZING!

\$10!

THE ORPHANAGE'S CHARITY-FUND MONEY!  
THEN THIS COMING ROBING AS HIPPIES,  
DID PULL THE JOB! BUT HOW?  
DURING THE BALL, THEY NEVER  
LEFT THE BANDSTAND...

AND WHEN THE  
POLICE  
COMMISSIONER  
APPEARS  
ON THE  
SCENE...

THEY DIDN'T!  
AT LEAST... NOT  
TO THE EYES  
OF THE UN-  
CONCERNED  
DANCERS!  
LOOK!

AS  
ADAM  
STARTS TO  
INFLATE THE  
MYSTERIOUS  
SHAPE...

USING  
THIS...  
CONCEALED IN  
HIS BULL-FIDDLE  
BIG SQUAT BLEW IT  
UP DURING A DANCE  
BREAK... AND THEN, AT THE  
NEXT NUMBER --

...HE  
SNEAKED AWAY  
TO ROB THE  
BALLROOM SAFE!  
AND RETURNED...  
WITH NO ONE THE  
WISHER!

NOW WATCH AS I  
PROP THAT FIDDLE  
UP AGAINST THE WALL  
AND SWITCH ON  
THE PSYCHEDELIC  
STROBE-LIGHTS.

A PLASTIC  
DOUBLE  
OF BIG,  
SQUAT!

PRECISELY!  
AND UNDER THIS  
BEWILDERING  
DISPLAY OF  
HALLUCINogenic  
LIGHTING...  
WHO COULD  
DETECT THE  
DIFFERENCE?

BUT... WHO  
PULLED IN FOR  
HIS BASS --  
PLAYING &  
THE OTHER  
TWO WERE  
BUSY...

WHO?... IT'S PERFECTLY OBVIOUS, COMMISSIONER! THIS WAS AN ELECTRONICALLY-AMPLIFIED COMBO...

PRETTY BRILLIANT SCHEME... SO BRILLIANT FOR THIS TRIO TO HAVE PLANNED! WHICH MEANS THE "MASTER-BRAIN" BEHIND THIS OVERLOOKED ONE SMALL DETAIL!

AND, AS THE BOY WONDER THROWS A SWITCH...

...THEY PRE-RECORDED HIS BASS ACCOMPANIMENT ON THEIR TAPE-RECORDER... AND... PLAYED IT BACK IN HIS BRIEF ABSENCE!

THE "HUMAN" ELEMENT! HE FORSOOT THEIR PERSONAL MESSY HABITS! GUESS THIS IS "CUSTER'S LAST STAND'S" "LAST STAND!"

CULSTERS

LAST STAND

BUT IS IT? THE PLANNER IS LIKELY TO TAKE THIS DEPART... REAL PERSONAL!

AFTER A REFRESHING PAUSE, THE STORY CONTINUES ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING!

SEPTEMBER, 1960

## Welcome Wagon

Model of the Month  
1957 Chevrolet Nomad

Car buffs across the nation are searching for this eleven year old car. They relish when they find one in good condition. The '57 Nomad station wagon is on its way to becoming a classic, and demand far exceeds the supply. Nomad was the first station wagon with passenger car styling and features. It set new standards that are being followed today... and it's still considered a cool piece of machinery. Revell's new Nomad model kit has doors, windows and windows that open and close. Wheels roll and front wheels turn. Front and rear can be adjusted to three different heights... just like they modify the real Nomad. Fun to build, but less than \$3.00.

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Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

# Letters to the BATCAVE



Dear Editor: Upon looking at the cover of Batman 202, I immediately thought that this was going to be another run-of-the-mill scheme for some cunning felon to put away our cowled hero for good! (As if they all don't try!) Of course, I had the whole thing wrong but that's my lowly skill for you.

The cover-illustrated story, "Gateway to Death," was just fair. I say this because of a loophole that started it. I just can't grasp the idea that Alfred would suffer a mental breakdown just because he was going to tell the mysterious robber's name to Batman. Sure, the Psychic Planchette saved his life, but — like the butler said — it was for his own good and he would probably be helped. Yes, it was a tough decision to make and there was probably a lot of internal turmoil, but to be confined to bed for that reason.... Nah!

The author of this yarn was John Broome because of the human interest angle (strangely overdone) and the lack of puns.

Next we move to the Robin solo, "Menace of the Motorcycle Marauders" was also just fair. For one thing, there was too much action and not enough plot. As a matter of fact, the closest thing to plot I found was wondering if Dick would make it back to school in time for his speech.

You know something? Figuring out authors of stories really isn't much fun now. The sad should soon be dying out because it's getting too easy. The author of this one was Gardner Fox because he did the other Robin solos and because of the array of puns that were spouted by Robin. (Now I bet both my writer deductions are wrong!) — Joe Rosnail, Montville, N.J.

*(You hit the Daily Double — wrong on both accounts! Gardner Fox did the cover story; Mike Friedrich the Robin yarn! As you suspected, the author-guessing sad has run its course; from now on we're giving author (and artist) credit along with each story.) — Ed.*

Dear Editor: Congrat! Batman 202 was a really solid issue. Solid? Yep, solid is the best way to describe a mag that balances the scale of good art and story.

Concentrating on the story-content, both were well-written and thoroughly enjoyable. "Gateway to Death" contained some of the elements we mystery fans have been clamoring for, and the tie-in with Alfred proves once again what a vital and integral part he plays in the lives of Batman and Robin.

"Menace of the Motorcycle Marauders" was also good, and this is surprising to me, for solo Robin adventures usually turned me off (for the simple reason that they were obviously meant for the younger readers.) However, the idea which made the story was the insight (at last!) into the personal life of Dick Grayson, whom ye editor so long ago is a teenager like the one we are. His ending

was symbolic of a new image for Dick that I'd like to see — a small sense of sorrow that his crime-fighting is cutting into his social life. — Dennis Palumbo, Pittsburgh, Pa.

*(The wind-up of the Robin tale wound up quite a few readers — so let's unroll a couple more reactions.) — Ed.*

Dear Editor: Well, there was a lot of *hiss-pow-zack* to Batman 202, but except for two panels in the second story, it could very easily be read and completely forgotten by even the most enthusiastic of Batman fans.

Those two panels... the last panels of Mike Friedrich's Robin story (which, if it doesn't live in history for these panels, will doubtless be famous simply because it was the first story Mike ever sold to the comic). This small scene is surely the most tragic ever written about boy crime-fighters. As a young kid full of desire for revenge and excitement, Robin got trapped into the same self-sacrificing life that Batman chose deliberately, knowing exactly what it entailed. Now, he is faced with the need for sacrifice — a sacrifice to Batman's awesomely austere dedication. He'll follow his leader to the death, of course, but has Batman the right to ask so much of him? — Irwin Vartanoff, Lake Forest, Ill.

Dear Editor: What disturbed me most about the Robin story was the ending. Here was a fellow who had taken the most exquisite pains ever devised by misanthropic nabes (hey, these camp stories must be affecting my mind) crying like a baby over losing a school election. I realize that you wanted us to see how disappointed Dick was, but I never thought that you would dare insult the male sex in such objectionable manner. For shame! — Lee Salem, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Editor: You turned out a real winner in Batman 202. Both stories, as well as the cover, were masterpieces. It seems you are trying to make amends with those tried-and-true fans who stuck with you during the camp era.

Gardner Fox really gave us a bouncier of a tale in "Gateway to Death." Ah, this is Batman at his best! Fighting crooks with no far-out costumes or powers, but with a few brains and talents within the realm of human capabilities! Using logical (and useful) utility belts gimmicks instead of Bat-springs, Bat-analyzers, and a lot of other Bat-junk. The battle-problem situation is one at which Fox excels, and the fact that B&R got hit to force their mouths open, and didn't trip or run into each other added realism. I'm also glad that it wasn't revealed whether or not Norman actually possessed "mind over matter" powers. Although it was hinted at that he did not, at least B&R didn't go into a long speech about how the villain really committed those robberies. — V.O. Speights, Nevada, Texas

THE NEXT NIGHT, THE GOTHAM GRAND BALLROOM IS HOST TO A TESTIMONIAL DINNER...

NO OTHER CITY CAN CLAIM...  
INDDED... BOAST OF THE  
DISTINCTION OF HAVING AS  
ITS CHAMPIONS OF LAW  
AND ORDER, THAT  
POWERFUL PAIR...

OF  
PHONIES!  
BOTH  
OF THEM!!

AND AS THE DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLAGE  
TURNS IN SHOCKED SURPRISE...

ME-AH

YOU HEARD ME  
RIGHT? I A COUPLE  
OF... PARASITIC  
CREEPS!

GOTHAM CITY  
HONOR DYNAMI

GOTHAM CITY  
HONOR DYNAMI

THE  
DUO



ALRIGHT,  
YOU MAY SPEAK!  
BUT I WARN YOU... IF  
YOU COMMIT PUBLIC  
SLANDER OF THESE  
UNREWARDED  
PUBLIC-MINDED...

GUARDS!  
THROW  
THAT MAN...

NO,  
COMMISSIONER!  
WE'VE ALL FOUGHT  
TO PRESERVE  
FREE SPEECH!  
NEAR HIM OUT!



UNREWARDED...?  
THESE WITLESS JOKERS  
COP ALL THE GLORY...  
ACCLAIM... WHILE FEEDING  
LIKE SHARKS ON  
MY BRAINS?!  
UNREWARDED...?  
FAH!



STOP HURLING VAGUE  
GENERALITIES, MAN...  
PRECISELY WHAT  
ARE YOU CLAIMING?

THAT EVERY TIME YOUR  
BULLIANT BUDDIES  
LEFT THE SCENE OF A  
CRIME TO CHECK THE  
CLUES AT THEIR SECRET  
BATCAVE - THEY STOPPED  
OFF FIRST AT MY  
HOME, AS I  
SOLVED THESE  
UNSOLVABLE  
CRIMES FOR  
THEM! "BRAIN-  
FOR-HIRE" THEY  
HUMOROUSLY  
REFERRED TO  
ME...

HAI-HAI! A  
BITTER JOKE AT  
MY EXPENSE  
EVEN THOUGH THEY  
PAID handsomely!  
THESE NO MUSE  
HAVE AT THEIR  
DISPOSAL  
UNLIMITED  
FUNDS!

THAT LAST UNWITTING BIAS, HAS STRUCK HOME!  
BATMAN'S SHAKEN AND SPEECHLESS

WHO IS HE? CAN HE POSSIBLY  
KNOW THAT IT'S REALLY  
BOB MAYHEW, MONEYED  
PHILANTHROPIST?

THESE ARE SHOCKING  
AND DASTARDLY  
ACCUSATIONS! SPEAK  
UP IN ANSWER,  
BATMAN...  
WE'RE ALL  
WITH YOU!

WITH A SENSITIVITY BORN OF LONG ASSOCIATION  
ANDREW COVERS FOR HIS GUARDIAN... AND FRIEND

I-I THINK THAT BATMAN, LIKE AN HONEST  
UPRIGHT CITIZEN, IS SHOCKED BY OLD WORDS  
BY THESE WILD UNFOUNDED FLAMES!

JUST WHO IS THIS  
UNNAMED ACCUSER?  
WHAT IS HIS BACK-  
GROUND TO CLAIM  
SUCH CRIME-FIGHT-  
ING KNOWLEDGE?

I'M NOT AFRAID TO TELL YOU,  
EVEN IF YOU ARE! I'M  
B.G. NEVER... PRIVATE  
INSURANCE CLAIM  
INVESTIGATOR! WITH  
A LONG HISTORY OF  
IN THE FIELD  
TRAINING IN  
CRIMINOLOGY!

CHECK WITH MY EMPLOYERS,  
IF YOU DARE! I'M FED UP  
WITH KEEPING MY BACK-  
GROUND IN THE BACK-

EVEN IF IT'S TRUE  
MR. NEVER... IT DOES NOT  
PROVE ANY  
SUCH RELATION  
TO BATMAN,  
AS YOU CLAIM!  
JUST WHAT DO  
YOU WANT  
HERE?

I CHANCE TO  
PROVE I AM  
THE BRAINS  
BEHIND  
BATMAN!  
I PROUDLY  
CHALLENGE  
HIM TO A  
DUEL!

A DUEL .. OF WITS,  
COMMISSIONER!  
PUT BATMAN AND  
ME ON THE NEXT  
BIG CASE. SEE  
IF HE CAN PERFORM  
WITHOUT USING  
MY BRAIN!

SOUNDS FAIR ENOUGH,  
BATMAN! I CAN TAKE  
YOUR SILENCE AS  
ACCEPTANCE?

LET BATMAN HAVE  
FIRST CRACK AT  
ANY CLUES! IF HE  
CAN'T SOLVE EM,  
TURN THE CASE OVER  
TO ME!

MIDNIGHT AT THE AUTO-GRANARY WHERE  
THE PLANNER HOLDS COURT

CHOMP AND STOMP--  
I'VE SUMMONED YOU TWO  
FROM OUT-OF-TOWN FOR  
A VERY SPECIAL JOB!  
YOUR METHOD OF OPERATION  
IS NOT KNOWN HERE IN  
GOTHAM, AND IF YOU  
FOLLOW MY PLAN  
PRECISELY...

WE DON'T AIM  
TO GET CAUGHT!  
YOU CALL IT  
WE PLAY IT--  
YOUR WAY!

GOTHAM  
AUTO  
WRECKING

I GIVE YOU THE DETAILS  
OF THE HEIST--THE  
PROCEDURE AND  
WHERE TO MEET ME  
TO SPILL THE TAKE!  
BUT HEAR THIS--  
NO CLUES LEFT  
AT THE SCENE!

AND AFTER THE THUGS LEAVE

HOW CAN I LOSE  
AGAINST BATMAN,  
WHEN I PLAN THE  
CRIMES! HE GETS  
"SHOT DOWN"  
AND I CALL THE  
SHOTS!

THE NEXT NIGHT IN  
AN AFTER-HOURS  
CHECK CASHING  
SERVICE

FIRST THIEF CANNISTER COMES  
ROLLING INTO THE OFFICE. THEN  
POW-POW! IT EXPLODES!  
CH-CH-MINING GAS! WE  
ARE ALL BLACKED OUT

AND WHEN YOU CAME TO,  
ALL THE EASH WAS GONE!  
MAN AND EYEWITNESS  
IDENTIFICATION POSSIBLE...  
NO FINGERPRINTS  
NO NOTHING!

END. IN RESPONSE TO THE MURKY CALL...

IT'S ALL YOURS, DAY-BRAIN...  
CLEAN IT UP FAST. I'M...  
MANNEQUIN BLEEP

YOU COULD'VE  
SAVED IT, I'M SURE IF THE  
TRAP NEVER TRAP HAD  
YOU, BADDY, BYE BEFORE  
YOU LEFT YAH!

A PREDICTION THAT WOULD PUT AN  
INSOMNIAC TO SLEEP. AS THE DYNAMIC  
DUO SLOWLY LOSES ITS COOL.

WHAT A CLUE!  
WE'RE BEAT! IF  
WE NEVER CAN  
SOLVE THIS!

THE FLOOR IS  
YOURS, BIG BRAIN.

DON'T--  
I HEARD IT  
SMART BLOTHIE! I  
SAW ALL I NEEDED--  
WHILE YOU TWO  
WERE KNOCKIN'  
YOUR BRAINS  
OUT!

FIRST... WE  
"TE" "TECHNIQUE" USED A  
OBVIOUSLY THAT OF  
CHOMP-A- STOMP.  
TWO GAS "COVER"  
SPEC ALISTS!

SECOND, I CAN  
TELL YOU WHERE  
THEY'RE  
HOLDING  
UP--

YOU  
CAN'T TELL WHAT  
GAVE YOU THE  
CLUE IF

UH-UH, COMMIS-  
SECRETS ME THAT  
SOME HELLER, MAN YOU  
CAN AFFORD TO PAY!  
NOW DO YOU WANT  
ME ADDRESSES?

WE DO MR. HEVY! NO MATTER WHO GET THE CREDIT FOR THEIR APPREHENSION... WE WANT TO BRING THEM IN!

WE... IF I'S ALL RIGHT WITH GORDON WOULDN'T WANT YOU BOYS TO... HAH! HEH! GET HURT!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT MORE THAN MEET OUR MATCH, BATMAN! HOW COULD HE HAVE KNOWN THEIR HIDE-OUTS?

WE COULDN'T! IT TAKES NO BRILLIANCE TO FABRICATE AN ADDRESS... AND THEN, WHEN THE THUGS AREN'T FOUND - CLAIM THEY SKIPPED OUT BEFORE THE POLICE GOT THERE!

THAT'S WHY I WANT US TO CHECK IT OUT!

NO STANDING  
TAM 'N  
NO P.D.

BUT AS THEY PULL UP TO THE GIVEN ADDRESS...

YOU WERE RIGHT, BATMAN... HE GAVE US A PHONY!

NOT SO SURE AGAIN... REMEMBER - NEVER JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS! OBSERVE, PARKED IN THE ALLEY...

THEIR GETAWAY CAR! AND WE'RE BLOCKING THEIR EXIT!

BATMAN, AND HIS CREEPY KID, WE ROLLED BREED PLANNER'S OUTLINE TO TH' LETTER, CHOMP! HOW...

NEVER MIND THAT STOMP! WE GOTTA LAM! GOT A IDEA YOU WERE EM' UP HERE WHILE I

BATMAN!! GOT A BRIEF GLIMPSE SOMEONE UP THERE!

WE'LL OUTFLANK EM! THEY'LL EXPECT US TO COME THRU THE DOWNSTAIRS DOOR, SO WELL...

THROWING BATHOOK  
ROPE ONTO THE  
ROOF EDGE. THE  
DYNAMIC DUO  
MAKES THE HOUSE-FRONT

WHILE INSTEAD, LOOKING DOWN TO THE SIDE

ARE WE EVER GONNA  
HAVE A BALL WITH THOSE  
CO. MAIN CREEPERS?  
THEN WE KIN' LIGHT OUT  
FREE AN' CLEAR!

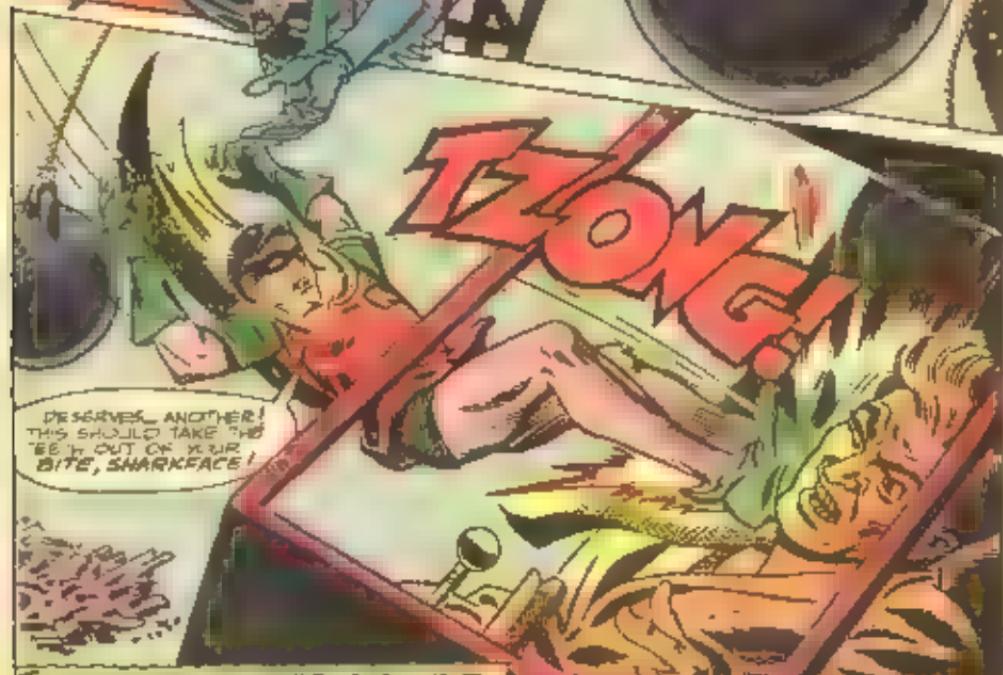
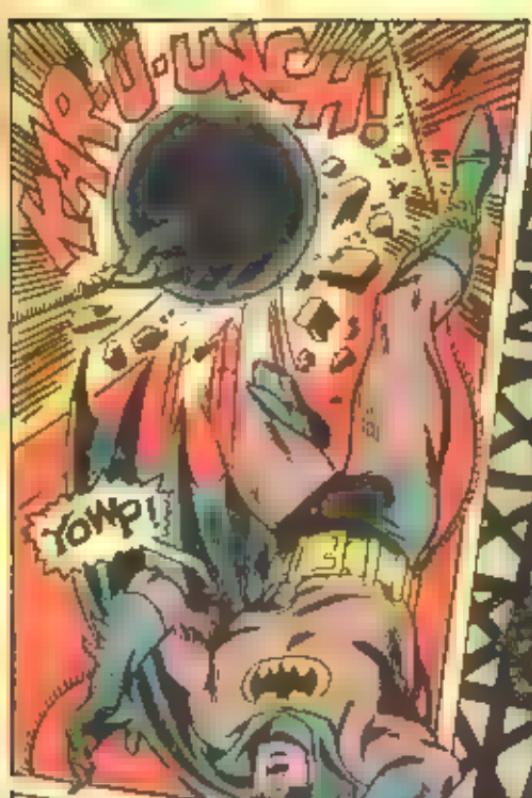


BATMAN...  
LOOK OUT!!

Voochs

AT THE  
WHEEL OF  
SPINNING  
GEAR. ROBIN  
URNS  
JUST IN  
TIME TO  
SEE





THAT TAKES CARE OF CHOMP. BUT WHAT OF THE HELPLESS DANIEL, OR CAPO CRUSADER, WHO IS THIS AZIMETI STOMP ABOVE HIM?

BATMAN  
IS REALLY  
HUNG UP  
IN A  
BIRD...  
WITH NO  
AID IN  
SIGHT!...

BUT  
ANOTHER  
SWINGER  
MAKES A  
RETURN TRIP...  
SWIRLING WILDLY...

VIS ON THE LOSING END THIS  
TIME, BATMAN! SWE-SWE...  
SWINGER!

WHAM!

CARE FOR A  
BIRNCHEEK?  
YOU'RE OUT  
OF THE  
BALLGAME!

LATER,  
AT POLICE  
HEADQUARTERS

THEN... SWE NEVER  
CALLED THE SCORE  
RIGHT, BATMAN?

A FRAID SO,  
COMMISSIONER  
WE'S WON THE  
FIRST ROUND!

BUT THERE'S STILL A  
SECOND ROUND  
COMING UP. I'LL BE  
WAITING!

NOW I'VE GOT  
BATMAN  
HOOKED!  
ON THE NEXT  
CASE, HE'LL  
BITE AT ANY  
CLUE!

LATER THAT NIGHT THE PLANNER—ALIAS S.G.NEVER—SET UP THE SECOND ROUND "FOX" FOR THE BAFFLED CRIME FIGHTERS! --

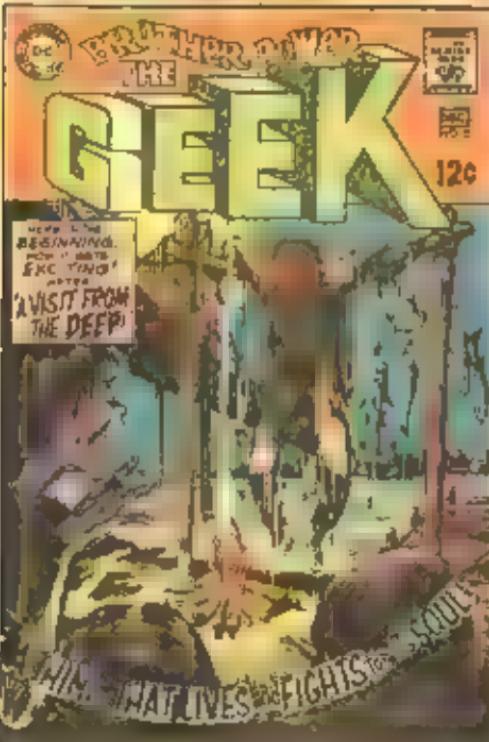
YOUR OBJECTIVE, CAT-CROOK THE LIVING-  
STON DIAMONDS! I'VE SNEAKED  
YOU A DETAILED GROUND  
PLAN OF THE MANSION.  
AND THE TIMING!

LOOKS LIKE A  
TK ALIGNMENT  
TOOL. WHAT'S  
THE GIG  
PLANNER?

Now as a  
GUARANTEED  
CLEAR DISTANCY,  
I WANT YOU TO  
PRINT THIS  
PLAINLY!

JUST A  
HER' MEN!  
PRIVATE JOKE!  
FOR A JOKER  
WHO'S BROWN TOO  
BAD FOR HIS  
STRETCHIES!

WHAT ELSE ISH DEVIL HAS THE MASTER OF MACHINATION COMB UP WITH NOW? WE SHALL SEE...AFTER AN EXASPERATING 2-HOUR BREAK.



# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE--EXTRA

## Dear Editor

Holy girl problems, jolly gee! Why may I ask you, does the Boy Wonder have a chick? The poor guy has lived such a boring life with dead old Aunt Harriet and trustworthy Alfred the butler and, of course, Bruce Wayne himself obviously this is when he isn't in his Robin getup and isn't fighting crime! Gee gosh, if I have to leap a life like that I'd go off my nut! So have a heart and give master Richard Grayson a love + and other fans would like it very much to see the Boy Wonder has a girl and not back off and show embarrassment + let him enjoy it to the old max. at least you would give him an "occasional" girl friend but not any more! What's the master are you too tight with your girls or does Bat-guy get 'em all?"

— Rick Marsh, Denver, Colo.

(And yet other readers have volkently told us that stories depicting young Robin with a chick would say an egg! — Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dear Editor:

Although your Batman stories are good, I think you show the Caped Crusader as being too unbeatable. In my opinion, Batman should have a limit to his powers. Give Batman and Robin real mysteries to solve and let Pete's sake, without any of those intolerable utility belt gadgets. Have Batman battle a foe that would be a match—or more than match—for him both physically and mentally.

Now I'm not through yet. I recommend that you have a Batman story constituted in a follow-up issue. Robin should be "in" in more of the adventures, and should also have a girl friend. I hope you will consider doing some of the things I have recommended.

— Edie Taylor, Salisbury, N.C.

An openers how about the no-paster: a Batman friend we dealt you in issues 204-205? — Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dear Editor:

I've been a Batman fan for twenty years. After two decades, I have a complaint and an urgent plea.

Please—PLEASE give Batman back his old looks. He used to look like Robert Coote; now he looks too much like Superman. I liked Batman's eyes and chin so much that I started a man with the very same eyes and chin.

So I beg of you—plead with you. Give Batman back his Robert Coote eyes and chin.

— Donn R.M., Waterloo, Iowa.

(And if we gave Batman Robert Coote's eyes and chin—where would that leave Mr. Goulet—to say nothing of Carol Lawrence? — Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dear Editor:

In the "New Look" Batman you have presented us with several types of stories: excellent, good, bad, and pass-me-the-aspirin-please. The last category is composed of "camp" stories so I won't dwell on them with the hopeful expectation that "camp" is now out. The "uncamp" stories are the best for the contribution to your worthwhile EXTRA department.

Excellent stories with human villains, bump plot, human situations. Let's have more villains—not just villains, but crooks. Ordinarily I expect to see wild, wacky just barely believable, super-powered villains. In Batman it's different. Maybe I've been spoiled, but I feel that there must be more of the likes of Doc Hastings, Ira Radon, Johnny Wits, Main Whiston, even the unknown criminal in "Batman's Baffling Turnabout." The only thing wrong with these crooks is that they are one-time villains with the exception of Johnny Wits. The only two continued villains I place in this category are Two-Face and the Joker. The former because he seems to be the only man who can really "strike fear into Batman" (take that Scarecrow—and that—and THAT is the Joker because of the intense hatred each has for the other. The Hooded Hangman was also good, but only limited one appearance.

Good Riddler, Penguin, Catwoman, etc. etc. ETC. I think I've made my point. They're all too unbelievable (I'll not accept the fact that half the people of Gotham City are raving lunatics, which these must be). However, look into their private lives and origins with a wide, more depth, and they could just climb up a notch or two.

Bad: Scarecrow is the only "uncamp" villain here. His "fear chemicals" are utterly unbelievable and they only accomplish what Two-Face, Joker, and Blockbuster do without any type of science-fiction gadgets.

Blockbuster! How could I have left out one of the most interesting characters in comics? The only thing I dislike about him is the way he always seems to be back to "normal" at the end of each of his adventures. I hope you bring him back soon—and this time get him involved with Two-Face. They're made for each other! This time I hope the *Titanic Throwback* is given a full-length nove to develop and display not only hate, but also other primitive emotions, such as fear of life, blind obedience to people he believes to be his friends, wolfing down his food, etc. At the end of his next adventure have him still undecided as to whether Batman is his friend, whether he wants to try and adapt to his life or to try and destroy those who are only trying to help.

I started off this letter about stories and wind up talking about villains. This means I think that a story is good only if the hero and villain are both good.

— V.O. Speights, Abilene, Tex.

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE EXTRA National Periodical Publications, 350 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT THE LANCERTON MANSION

ACCORDING TO  
COMMISSIONER GORDON,  
CALL BATMAN, SOUNDS  
LIKE ANOTHER CAT-  
CROOK CAPER!

REP ROBIN A MOST  
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!  
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE  
GET FIRST-CLASS AT  
TRACKING HIM DOWN

IT'S ALL YOURS, GENTLEMEN! LOOKS  
LIKE A CLEAN PRO-CAFE! WITH  
A HALF-MILLION IN DIAMONDS  
NEATLY LIFTED!

DETERMINED NOT TO BE OUTCLASSED BY THE SMILING  
MASTER OF MAYHEM THE DYNAMIC DUO OF  
DETECTION IF IT ONLY STARTS TO HUNT.

TAKE YOUR TIME I  
DID ALL MY SLEEPING  
THIS AFTERNOON!  
DO A REAL CAREFUL  
JOB YOU CAN'T  
AFFORD ANOTHER  
BOOP!

AFTER AN EXHAUSTING SEARCH  
FOR CLUES, SUDDENLY...

BATMAN,  
LOOK  
HERE...

I WAS RIGHT!  
I KNEW THAT  
"CAT-CRACK  
THEORY" WAS  
TO CAT TOO  
SIMPLE! CATCH  
ROBIN...  
WE'VE GOT  
A STRONG  
LEAD THIS  
TIME!

HMM! A TV  
ALIGNMENT  
TOOL! MUST'VE  
ROLLED UNDER  
THAT CLOCK  
BASE.

YEAH! HOOKED...  
AND  
PRACTICALLY LANDED!

“MAY YES, SIR. HE CAME THIS AFTERNOON TO REPAIR THE TV. I SAID HE'D RECEIVED A CALL. THE MADAM WAS OUT, SO I GUessed SHE'D CALLED!”

“YOU GUessed? THEN YOU CAN'T BE SURE THAT SOMEONE PHONED FROM HERE?”

“AN OLD DEVICE TO ENTER, AND, ‘CASE THE JOINT’ BUT AT LEAST HE LEFT HIS ... CALLING CARD!”

A QUICK DRIVE LATER  
“B-BATMAN! I OH-H, IN WHAT MISTAKE DID I MAKE? YOU'VE CAUGHT ME! I'M G-SOURTY!”

“OLD HABIT NEVER LEAVES THE ROBIN! WE'VE GOT HIM. DEAD OR RIGHTER!”

SURVEY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

“HERE'S YOUR MAN, COMMISSIONER!”

“OH HE IS S HE IS? AND I SUPPOSE YOU FOUND THE EVIDENCE ON HIM?”

“B-BATMAN! HE'S TAKING THE STOLEN JEWELS OUT OF HIS DRAWER!”

“GOOD GRIEF, ROBIN! IN OUR HASTE WE FORGOT THAT ONE ESSENTIAL DETAIL.”

“AND MUCH MORE! ACTING ON THE DRILL AND DETECTION OF MR. NEVER WE'VE ALREADY APPREHENDED THE REAL CRIMINAL!”

“SEND THE CULPABLE IN.”

“TH THE CAT-CROCK!”

“MR. TENNA, JUST WHAT ‘CRIME’ DID YOU COMMIT?”

THAT TV SET WAS  
PERFECTLY G-OOD!  
I MADE ME I  
FIRED IT PADDED  
TH' BILL LIKE L-RATY!  
I'M GUILTY GUILTY,  
I TELL YA!

A PRETTY DES-  
PERATE STAR AT  
RE-SEEIN' NO  
ITSELF.  
BATMAN! I  
THINK MR. NEVER  
DO' RAVED HIS  
CLAIM QUITE  
CONCLUSIVELY!

WHY IS THIS MAN  
TRYING TO  
DESTROY ME?

BATMAN THE "GREAT" . . .  
CAN'T FUNCTION WITHOUT YOUR  
"BRAIN" CAN YOU? IMAGINE  
BRINGIN' IN A PETTY  
BILL-PADDER AS A  
MASTER  
JEWEL  
THIEF!

THAT VOICE . . .!  
WHERE HAVE I  
HEARD IT  
BEFORE?

LOT HIM  
ON THE ROCKS.  
NOW DON'T HAM  
WITH THE  
CLINKER KAD  
HIM FORE-EVER!  
AS LONG AS HE  
LIVES, HE'S A  
THREAT TO ME!

WHAT . . .  
USE THAT BRAWN  
TO ASSAULT THE  
INTELLIGENT  
THAT PUT YOU  
WHERE YOU  
ARE?

SHUT HIM UP.  
SCORPION  
OR ILL . . .

HE'S PUSHING . . .  
DELIBERATELY TRYING  
TO PROVOKE ME! WHAT'S  
HIS GAME? I'LL PLAY  
ALONG A FINE OUT-

BATMAN AIMS HIS  
PUNCH TO KISS!

YOU LYING . . .  
CONNIVING . . .  
SWINDLER!

SEE, COMMISSIONER  
HE ATTACKED ME!  
I DEMAND POLICE  
PROTECTION . . .  
AGAINST THIS  
LUNATIC!

COOL IT MR. NEVER . . .  
BATMAN MAY'VE  
BLOWN HIS STACK . . .  
BUT HE'S NO  
KILLER!

B-BATMAN--  
NO!

MR. NEVER . . .  
NOW I  
KNOW THAT  
VOICE . . .  
HE'S THE  
PLANNER!!

BATMAN IS A  
FRAUD... AND  
WHO KNOWS...  
WHAT ELSE?  
IF ANYTHING  
HAPPENS TO  
ME, GORDON...

SO THAT'S THE  
FINK WHO TURNED  
ME IN! WHO ELSE  
KNEW I DULLED  
THE LANGSTON  
CAPER? HE'S  
GONNA PAY FOR  
THIS, BUT GOOD!

AND MOMENTS LATER

ETALLED LONG  
ENOUGH, SO  
THEY COULD  
TAKE ME...

WHAT EVER  
GOT INTO YOU  
BATMAN?!

PLAYING THE  
GAME HE MADE UP  
TO HIS RULES,  
ROBIN! WE'RE  
GOING TO  
FOLLOW AND  
SEE WHERE  
HE LEADS  
US! AND  
WHY...



HE FINDS A MEANS OF  
ESCAPE, READY AND  
WAITING!

PLANNER WILL BE  
HEADING FOR HIS AUTO  
GRAVE YARD. I'LL  
BURY HIM THERE!  
WITH MY BARE  
HANDS!

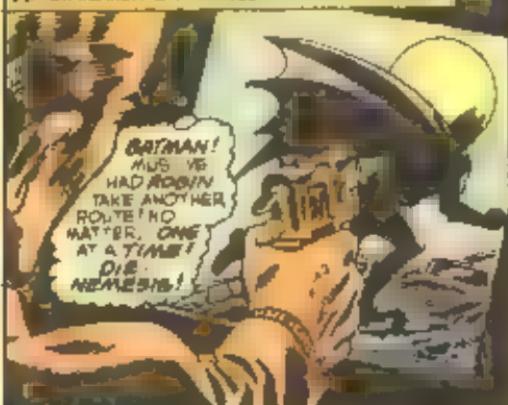
SHORTLY AS THE PLANNER --ALIAS E.G. NEVER-- REACHES HIS  
DEPTHS...

MADE SURE THEY DIDN'T  
LOSE ME! NOW I'LL DIG A  
DEEP GRAVE FOR THOSE  
BAT WINGED FOOLS!

MUST BE HIS SON,  
ROBIN! ONCE HE'S  
INSIDE, WE'LL SPLIT  
UP, JOIN ON FRONT...



AFTER MOMENTS OF TENSE... PATIENT WAITING



AND IN TWO DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE WRECK-  
ING YARD AS THE SHOT BLASTS THE NIGHT



AS THE CAPED CRUSADER  
REACHES THE CRIME SCENE  
FIRST

CAT-GROD...?!  
JAWBONE  
BUNKED DOWN  
"COLD  
BLOOD!"

CLACK

I  
GOOOGED!  
B - I WON'T  
NOW! DIE,  
BAT-GUN'S  
JAMMED!

THESE'S  
ANOTHER  
WAY.

SOMEONE LEFT THE  
ELECTROMAGNETIC  
CURRENT ON! ALL I  
HAVE TO DO IS  
SWITCH IT OFF  
AND



BUT EVEN AS THE DEADLY  
CAR CORPSE HUNG DOWN  
FROM IT'S NOWHERE!



OUT FROM  
UNDER,  
BATMAN!

HIS WIND KNOCKED OUT, ROBIN LIES MOMENTARILY STUNNED... AS BATMAN FALLS INTO THE CRUSHING PIT AFTER STRIKING HIS HEAD AGAINST THE EDGE! ...



AND AS THE PLANNER THROWS THE REMOTE-CONTROL LEVER...

SEIZING A MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION BEAM, THE DESPERATE BOY WONDER HEDGES IT INTO THE HARROWING GAP, BUT...

IT... BENT UP LIKE A GIANT PRETZEL! ONLY ONE... FAR-CUT... CHANCE LEFT!

GNRRR RRRRRR

RRR

NO TIME... TO GET BATMAN OUT! GOT TO STOP IT... SOMEHOW!

A FAR-OUT LONG-SHOT THAT SCORPIS AS ROBIN HURLS HIS BATARANG!

KACHUNG!

AAR-KH!

AND THROWS THE LEVER... JUST IN TIME!

HHEW! I STOPPED THOSE... MANOLING-MOLARS!

GNRR RRR



THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE GRIND SLOW... BUT FINALLY...

...BALLISTIC TESTS PROVE THE FATAL BULLET WAS FIRED FROM THE DEFENDANT'S GUN!

...THAT'S THE CAT ALRIGHT - THE PLANNER!

...HE SURE "PLANNED" IT! OUR... HA! HA!... PERFECT CRIME!

...YEAH, IT WAS HIS VOICE WHAT ORDERED THE TV REPAIR AT THE LANGSTON MANSION!

...IT MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN IDENTITY, BUT IT WAS PRE-MEDITATED MURDER!



AND SO THE MASTER OF MALICIOUS MAYHEM FACES A HIGHER "PLANNER"

...YOU SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THENCE TO A PLACE OF EXECUTION... WHERE 20,000 VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY SHALL BE PASSED THROUGH YOUR BODY...

...TILL YOU ARE DEAD!

LATER... ON DEATH-ROW...

HE'S GONE OFF HIS ROCKER!

FOOLE! IDIOTS! CRETINS!  
I'M BATMAN'S "BRAIN!"  
I AM BATMAN!

AS THE FATAL HOUR NEARS, BATMAN IS SUMMONED TO THE WARDEN'S OFFICE...

HE'S CRACKED UP, CLAIMS HE'S YOU! AND HIS LAST REQUEST... TO DIE AS HE "LIVED"... AS BATMAN!

HMM... AN INSANE WHIM? OR... A DIABOLICAL SCHEME TO THwart JUSTICE... AND HAVE US COMMIT HIM TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION...?

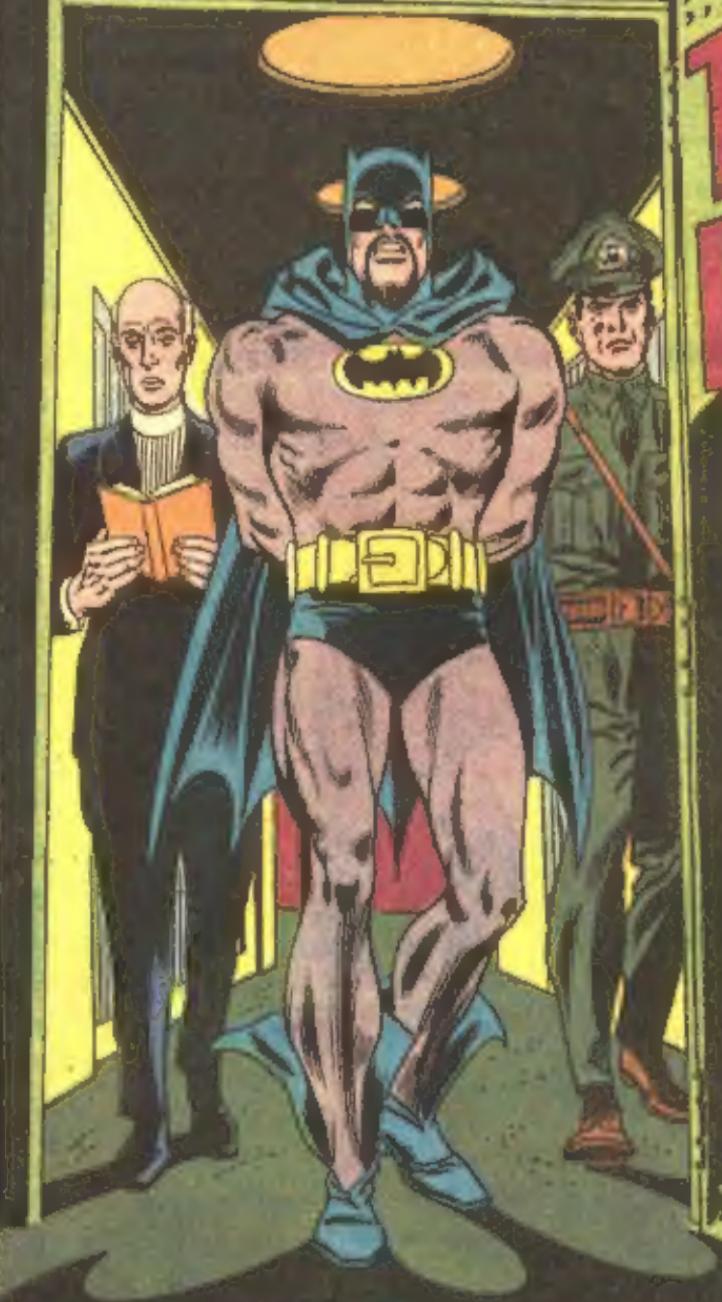
BUT HIS SANITY AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AT HIS TRIAL...!

TRUE... GUESS WE'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW! ERNST HIS WISH WARDEN... HE COULDN'T DESTROY ME IN LIFE... HE CAN'T HARM MY IMAGE IN DEATH!



AND SO THE CONDEMNED MAN'S LAST WISH IS FULFILLED AS HE COMPLETES THAT GRIM "LAST MILE" LEADING TO...

**THE  
END**



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